

NEWS

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HIGHLIGHTS OF KNOXVILLE, TN NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MAY 2001

Workers in the Knoxville metropolitan area averaged \$14.21 per hour during May 2001, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.01 per hour and accounted for 52 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$12.81 per hour and represented 31 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.33 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 147 firms representing 132,600 workers in the Knoxville metropolitan area, which includes Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, Sevier and Union Counties in Tennessee. Seventy-eight percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Knoxville metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 45 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$18.55 per hour; secretaries, \$11.98; and cashiers, \$7.12. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$17.18 per hour, industrial truck and tractor equipment operators at \$11.89, and assemblers at \$11.64. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$14.98 per hour; cooks, \$9.21; and janitors and cleaners, \$8.70.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Knoxville area averaged \$14.54 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.74. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$13.26 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$12.60. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$11.88 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$17.21.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an

occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Knoxville, TN National Compensation Survey May 2001 (Bulletin 3110-05). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-331-3415. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/comhome.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Atlanta by dialing 404-331-3403 and requesting document 9480.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Knoxville, TN, May 2001

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Private industry | | State and local government | |
|--|---------|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| All | \$14.21 | 2.7 | \$13.58 | 3.2 | \$16.65 | 4.6 |
| All excluding sales | 14.25 | 2.6 | 13.53 | 3.1 | 16.67 | 4.6 |
| White collar | 17.01 | 3.3 | 16.25 | 4.2 | 19.21 | 4.5 |
| White collar excluding sales | 17.72 | 3.2 | 17.02 | 4.1 | 19.25 | 4.5 |
| Professional specialty and technical | 20.88 | 2.8 | 20.26 | 3.6 | 21.93 | 4.6 |
| Professional specialty | 22.83 | 2.7 | 22.58 | 3.7 | 23.10 | 4.1 |
| Engineers, architects, and surveyors | 26.46 | 4.5 | 27.32 | 3.9 | — | — |
| Industrial engineers | 25.21 | 8.9 | 25.21 | 8.9 | — | — |
| Engineers, n.e.c. | 27.18 | 2.8 | 27.18 | 2.8 | — | — |
| Mathematical and computer scientists | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Natural scientists | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Health related | 18.83 | 3.5 | 18.45 | 2.3 | — | — |
| Registered nurses | 18.55 | 2.3 | 18.53 | 2.3 | — | — |
| Teachers, college and university | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Teachers, except college and university | 24.65 | 4.2 | — | — | 24.70 | 4.2 |
| Elementary school teachers | 25.13 | 6.1 | — | — | 25.16 | 6.1 |
| Librarians, archivists, and curators | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Social, recreation, and religious workers | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c. | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Technical | 16.40 | 5.6 | 17.01 | 5.7 | — | — |
| Licensed practical nurses | 12.17 | 3.1 | 12.17 | 3.1 | — | — |
| Engineering technicians, n.e.c. | 18.73 | 11.0 | — | — | — | — |
| Drafters | 21.52 | 8.2 | 21.52 | 8.2 | — | — |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial | 25.32 | 7.3 | 26.12 | 9.9 | 23.95 | 8.9 |
| Executives, administrators, and managers | 28.86 | 8.7 | 28.70 | 10.8 | 29.28 | 14.1 |
| Administrators and officials, public administration | 36.85 | 3.6 | — | — | 36.85 | 3.6 |
| Personnel and labor relations managers | 21.54 | 16.7 | 21.54 | 16.7 | — | — |
| Managers and administrators, n.e.c. | 31.48 | 13.6 | 31.23 | 14.0 | — | — |
| Management related | 18.53 | 6.7 | 18.33 | 7.0 | 18.70 | 10.7 |
| Sales | 13.89 | 12.3 | 13.92 | 12.4 | — | — |
| Supervisors, sales | 23.99 | 35.7 | 23.99 | 35.7 | — | — |
| Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale | 18.73 | 9.5 | 18.73 | 9.5 | — | — |
| Sales workers, other commodities | 8.99 | 6.5 | 8.99 | 6.5 | — | — |
| Cashiers | 7.12 | 5.7 | 7.07 | 5.8 | — | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical | 11.51 | 3.3 | 11.44 | 4.1 | 11.72 | 3.9 |
| Secretaries | 11.98 | 3.5 | 10.63 | 7.5 | 12.55 | 3.5 |
| Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks | 12.64 | 8.7 | 12.80 | 9.6 | — | — |
| Dispatchers | 11.58 | 12.5 | — | — | — | — |
| General office clerks | 11.51 | 7.1 | — | — | 11.67 | 7.4 |
| Bank tellers | 9.25 | 7.0 | 9.25 | 7.0 | — | — |
| Data entry keyers | 9.49 | 5.0 | 9.49 | 5.0 | — | — |
| Teachers' aides | 8.72 | 2.2 | — | — | 8.72 | 2.2 |
| Administrative support, n.e.c. | 9.67 | 5.9 | 9.38 | 5.8 | — | — |
| Blue collar | 12.81 | 3.4 | 12.67 | 3.7 | 14.18 | 6.3 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 16.13 | 4.3 | 16.16 | 4.9 | 15.98 | 8.7 |
| Industrial machinery repairers | 17.18 | 5.6 | 17.18 | 5.6 | — | — |
| Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c. | 12.54 | 10.8 | — | — | — | — |
| Electrical power installers and repairers | 15.56 | 7.1 | — | — | 15.56 | 7.1 |
| Supervisors, production | 19.31 | 8.0 | 19.31 | 8.0 | — | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors | 11.58 | 4.4 | 11.58 | 4.4 | — | — |
| Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c. | 11.66 | 4.2 | 11.66 | 4.2 | — | — |
| Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c. | 13.08 | 9.7 | 13.08 | 9.7 | — | — |
| Assemblers | 11.64 | 6.2 | 11.64 | 6.2 | — | — |
| Transportation and material moving | 12.36 | 8.5 | 12.40 | 9.0 | 11.56 | 7.5 |
| Truck drivers | 10.30 | 13.8 | 10.26 | 14.4 | — | — |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Knoxville, TN, May 2001 — Continued

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Private industry | | State and local government | |
|--|---------|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| Blue collar —Continued | | | | | | |
| Transportation and material moving —Continued | | | | | | |
| Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators .. | \$11.89 | 5.5 | \$11.89 | 5.5 | — | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers | 10.53 | 5.1 | 10.43 | 5.7 | \$11.28 | 7.3 |
| Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c. | 14.89 | 17.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Stock handlers and baggers | 9.36 | 6.1 | 9.36 | 6.1 | — | — |
| Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c. | 11.26 | 8.9 | 11.26 | 8.9 | — | — |
| Hand packers and packagers | 9.73 | 8.6 | 9.73 | 8.6 | — | — |
| Laborers, except construction, n.e.c. | 9.77 | 6.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Service | 8.33 | 3.9 | 7.36 | 4.1 | 10.83 | 5.5 |
| Protective service | 10.85 | 10.1 | — | — | 12.62 | 4.2 |
| Firefighting | 11.78 | 6.4 | — | — | 11.78 | 6.4 |
| Police and detectives, public service | 14.98 | 6.0 | — | — | 14.98 | 6.0 |
| Food service | 6.63 | 7.6 | 6.58 | 7.8 | — | — |
| Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders | 2.46 | 6.2 | 2.46 | 6.2 | — | — |
| Waiters and waitresses | 2.27 | 4.4 | 2.27 | 4.4 | — | — |
| Other food service | 8.93 | 6.3 | 8.96 | 6.5 | — | — |
| Supervisors, food preparation and service | 13.92 | 12.4 | 13.92 | 12.4 | — | — |
| Cooks | 9.21 | 3.4 | 9.26 | 3.6 | — | — |
| Food preparation, n.e.c. | 6.97 | 3.2 | 6.97 | 3.2 | — | — |
| Health service | 8.30 | 2.1 | 8.30 | 2.1 | — | — |
| Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants | 8.30 | 2.1 | 8.30 | 2.1 | — | — |
| Cleaning and building service | 8.93 | 3.7 | 8.34 | 4.0 | 9.28 | 5.3 |
| Maids and housemen | 7.58 | 2.7 | 7.58 | 2.7 | — | — |
| Janitors and cleaners | 8.70 | 4.0 | 8.85 | 5.7 | 8.58 | 5.0 |
| Personal service | 7.51 | 7.8 | 7.48 | 7.9 | — | — |

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Knoxville, TN, May 2001

| Occupational group | Private industry and State and local government | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Full-time workers ³ | Part-time workers ³ | Union ⁴ | Nonunion ⁴ | Time ⁵ | Incentive ⁵ |
| | Mean | | | | | |
| All occupations | \$14.54 | \$7.74 | \$13.58 | \$14.30 | \$14.20 | \$14.41 |
| All excluding sales | 14.52 | 7.64 | 13.57 | 14.35 | 14.38 | 10.51 |
| White collar | 17.39 | 9.55 | 15.19 | 17.10 | 16.96 | 17.68 |
| White-collar excluding sales | 17.91 | 11.18 | 15.22 | 17.87 | 17.76 | — |
| Professional specialty and technical | 20.99 | 16.15 | 15.41 | 21.33 | 20.88 | — |
| Professional specialty | 22.94 | — | — | 22.92 | 22.83 | — |
| Technical | 16.51 | — | — | 16.97 | 16.40 | — |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial | 25.33 | — | — | 25.32 | 25.32 | — |
| Sales | 14.81 | 8.04 | — | 13.89 | 11.59 | 18.20 |
| Administrative support, including clerical | 11.68 | 7.56 | 14.87 | 11.33 | 11.53 | — |
| Blue collar | 12.89 | 7.55 | 13.26 | 12.60 | 12.99 | 10.71 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 16.20 | — | 17.31 | 15.91 | 16.08 | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors | 11.60 | — | 11.74 | 11.45 | 11.73 | — |
| Transportation and material moving | 12.36 | — | 14.57 | 11.30 | 13.14 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers | 10.74 | 6.81 | 12.29 | 9.83 | 10.53 | — |
| Service | 8.70 | 5.51 | — | 8.32 | 8.30 | — |
| | Relative error ⁶ (percent) | | | | | |
| All occupations | 2.6 | 6.6 | 5.3 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 15.6 |
| All excluding sales | 2.6 | 8.4 | 5.3 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 9.4 |
| White collar | 3.2 | 7.6 | 4.8 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 13.5 |
| White-collar excluding sales | 3.2 | 10.1 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 3.1 | — |
| Professional specialty and technical | 2.9 | 9.2 | 5.5 | 2.8 | 2.8 | — |
| Professional specialty | 2.8 | — | — | 2.8 | 2.7 | — |
| Technical | 5.7 | — | — | 6.3 | 5.6 | — |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial | 7.4 | — | — | 7.3 | 7.3 | — |
| Sales | 12.3 | 7.6 | — | 12.4 | 11.1 | 12.9 |
| Administrative support, including clerical | 3.4 | 3.2 | 9.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | — |
| Blue collar | 3.4 | 7.8 | 5.9 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 11.8 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 4.3 | — | 4.0 | 5.0 | 4.5 | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors | 4.4 | — | 7.3 | 5.1 | 4.5 | — |
| Transportation and material moving | 8.5 | — | 13.2 | 9.7 | 6.7 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers | 5.2 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 5.1 | — |
| Service | 3.6 | 8.4 | — | 3.9 | 4.0 | — |

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Knoxville, TN, May 2001

| Occupational group | Full-time and part-time workers | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | All private industry workers | 50 - 99 workers ³ | 100 workers or more | | |
| | | | Total | 100 - 499 workers | 500 workers or more |
| | Mean | | | | |
| All occupations | \$13.58 | \$11.88 | \$14.39 | \$13.07 | \$17.21 |
| All excluding sales | 13.53 | 11.47 | 14.44 | 13.06 | 17.07 |
| White collar | 16.25 | 15.12 | 16.64 | 14.97 | 18.94 |
| White-collar excluding sales | 17.02 | 16.02 | 17.26 | 15.73 | 18.80 |
| Professional specialty and technical | 20.26 | 17.80 | 20.65 | 21.94 | 20.04 |
| Professional specialty | 22.58 | 21.87 | 22.66 | 23.96 | 21.88 |
| Technical | 17.01 | 15.28 | 17.46 | 16.97 | 17.61 |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial | 26.12 | 30.45 | 24.48 | 25.54 | 23.03 |
| Sales | 13.92 | 13.92 | 13.92 | 13.14 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical | 11.44 | 10.58 | 11.71 | 10.40 | 14.49 |
| Blue collar | 12.67 | 11.33 | 13.47 | 13.09 | 14.85 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 16.16 | 13.45 | 17.71 | 16.75 | 19.11 |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors | 11.58 | 10.45 | 12.00 | 12.15 | 11.57 |
| Transportation and material moving | 12.40 | 10.96 | 13.85 | 13.85 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers | 10.43 | 10.53 | 10.35 | 10.43 | — |
| Service | 7.36 | 6.27 | 8.04 | 7.91 | 8.68 |
| | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | | | | |
| All occupations | 3.2 | 8.0 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.8 |
| All excluding sales | 3.1 | 7.5 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 3.9 |
| White collar | 4.2 | 11.4 | 4.4 | 6.6 | 3.9 |
| White-collar excluding sales | 4.1 | 12.1 | 4.4 | 7.6 | 4.3 |
| Professional specialty and technical | 3.6 | 10.7 | 3.7 | 6.7 | 4.6 |
| Professional specialty | 3.7 | 10.0 | 3.9 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Technical | 5.7 | 9.2 | 6.4 | 11.1 | 7.7 |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial | 9.9 | 24.2 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 15.3 |
| Sales | 12.4 | 21.2 | 12.7 | 12.4 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical | 4.1 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 3.8 | 7.3 |
| Blue collar | 3.7 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 8.6 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair | 4.9 | 8.8 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 7.2 |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors | 4.4 | 10.0 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 6.4 |
| Transportation and material moving | 9.0 | 12.2 | 9.3 | 9.3 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers | 5.7 | 10.9 | 5.8 | 6.3 | — |
| Service | 4.1 | 8.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 5.7 |

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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